

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A service method of a rental storage, in which a rental storage user uses the rental storage provided by a storage provider on a network and said storage user and said storage provider communicate with respect to the rental storage service, comprising the steps of:

providing by the rental storage service provider the estimation of future storage usage of said rental storage service user, based on the history of storage usage of said rental storage service user; and

reporting the estimation to said storage user.

2. A service method of a rental storage, in which a rental storage user uses the rental storage provided by a storage service provider on a network and said storage user and said storage provider communicate with respect to the rental storage service, comprising the steps of:

making a contract between said rental storage service provider and said rental storage service user so as to configure the contract options based on the contract of use of storage service;

using the storage of said rental storage service provider by the rental storage service user;

0019930-000304

20

recommended contract on the amount of data according to the estimation.

4. A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 3,
5 in which;

the step of proposing to said rental storage service user a recommended contract on the amount of data include the substep of:

proposing reduction of amount of data contracted for the storage usage if the storage usage estimated is less than the currently contracted storage usage.

5. A service method of a rental storage set forth in claim 3, in which:

when said rental storage service user updates said contract options in accordance with the desirable amount of data usage of storage recommended by said rental storage service provider,

if the amount of data usage by said rental storage service user exceeds the contracted amount of data for storage usage reconfigured within the contract period of the contract,

said rental storage service user will be allowed using the storage service for the data beyond the contracted amount of said storage usage.

